

# Institut Pasteur

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Paris, June 11th, 1985.

Dr. Harold VARMUS  
Department of Microbiology  
and Immunology  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
School of Medicine  
San Francisco, California 94143  
U. S. A.

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Dear Harold,

Please find enclosed the straw poll form for the name of the  
AIDS virus.

With best regards and wishes,



Luc Montagnier

Encl.

STRAW POLL

1. Which, if any, of the proposed names for the AIDS agent do you favor? List up to four in descending order of preference:

L A V

H L A V

2. What do you believe to be the strongest arguments in favor of your first choice?

Persistent lymphadenopathy and AIDS describe accurately the main pathogenicity of the virus. As pointed out by Dr. Coffin and others, any name will have the same emotional bearing for seropositive individuals.

3. Which names would you adamantly oppose?

H T L V - 3

H R V - 3      ou      H R - 3

Why? Confusion with H T L V - 1 and - 2

Numerals should be used for strains, not for different species.

4. Are there other names, not previously suggested, that you would prefer? If so, which and why?

H L A V for Human Lenti AIDS Virus because the closest relatives (by all criteria) are ovine and equine lentiviruses.

5. Do you think a meeting would help us reach a consensus?

Yes, a meeting will be useful, in the fall 1985.

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6. Please provide any additional comments about the proposed names that might help include or exclude them from further consideration.

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